
'LITTLE DISCOVERERS'

WEST NORFOLK SCHOOL FOR PARENTS (WNSfP)

Charity Registration Number: 1125400

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021





Little Discoverers
WNSfP

Our Aim

Active learning for disabled children and their families

Little Discoverers (West Norfolk School for Parent) aims, in partnership with parents, to provide quality, holistic early education opportunities for children 0-5 with motor learning difficulties, delayed development and other complex needs.

Through use of structured play, the Early Years Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum and the principles of Conductive Education children are encouraged to achieve stepped goals that enhance skills for independence in everyday life and boost esteem in both child and parent. By working and playing together, families learn to celebrate success and recognise the potential in every child.

Little Discoverers (West Norfolk Schools for Parents) will continue to seek to improve the accessibility to a suitable session, for all families particularly those from hard to reach groups.



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ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Registration Number: 1125400

The following were Trustees of Little Discoverers West Norfolk School for Parents (WNSfP) during the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021:

- Katharine Fisher (Greatorrex) BEM
- Sue Williamson
- Gordon Penny
- Penny Sheerin

And joining us as Trustees during the year:

- Emma Fendley
- Andrew McShane

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WEST NORFOLK SCHOOL FOR PARENTS (WNSfP)

Background

Following a survey by Scope in 2002, work started to set up a School for Parents in West Norfolk and since 2005 we have been running a successful West Norfolk School for Parents for children and families in this region, eliminating the need for a long round trip to the closest other School for Parents in Norwich. In 2008 we registered as a charity independent of Scope but operating as part of Scope's School for Parents network. By the end of the year under review we had been successfully running Conductive Education sessions for children with complex motor problems and their families in West Norfolk and surrounding areas for 16 Years.

We follow national School for Parents guidelines and have our own set of policies that are regularly reviewed and updated.

As a result of a suggestion made by the ¹parents West Norfolk School for Parents is known as Little Discoverers WNSfP.

Little Discoverers WNSfP

The Little Discoverers programme provides support to children under 5 with complex physical and emotional difficulties and their parents. Our aim is to enable each child to achieve their maximum potential. We do this by providing individually designed programmes for each child based on the ideas of Conductive Education from Peto in Hungary (see Appendix 1) and are the only people in the West Norfolk area working in this way, with this age group in a group setting.



Nothing the parents have learnt in their previous life has given them any indication of the complex challenges they will meet and how to overcome them. Families can feel very isolated when their child is diagnosed. Little Discoverers provides a safe, friendly and fun early learning environment for pre-school children with difficulties in movement and delayed development that puts parents at the forefront of their child's learning and development and recognises that parents know their child best.

Our aim is to develop children's abilities and confidence in the pre-school years, which will help them at home and later at school. We do this by supporting them to improve their physical skills, their ability to communicate and their social skills. To achieve this we create a three way relationship between parent, child and specially trained Little Discoverers staff and each child has their own individual education plan.

When the parents and children get to know each other they form a support network of understanding friends. Parents of older children can reassure new families and help them through stressful times. Parents feel relaxed in Little Discoverers, working with families who face similar problems and who jointly celebrate even the smallest achievement of each child.

¹ 'Parent' refers to any adult with a parenting role

Who can benefit from Little Discoverers WNSfP

Little Discoverers is for children aged 0-5 within West Norfolk and the surrounding area. The children may suffer from physical problems, motor learning problems, delayed development and demonstrate a wide range of abilities. They may have learning difficulties, visual, hearing and communication problems. Often our children do not yet have a formal diagnosis, but an example of some of the conditions we work with are: Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome, hydrocephalus, global development delay and genetic disorders.

Children may have physical problems such as being unable to hold up their heads, focus their eyes, roll, sit, stand or walk. Children may be unable to open or close their hands, use them for play or self-help activities. Some children have sensory problems, not wanting to touch different textures or being upset by noises. Many children have feeding problems, such as choking, being unable to finger feed or use a cup (rather than a bottle).

Some children are deaf or have partial hearing. Many children are unable to communicate; unable to point with their eyes or hands; unable to make noises, sounds/words; unable to use sign language. Many children find it difficult to interact, smile or laugh, be sociable or have fun. They may not be able to make their needs known.

A child can be referred to Little Discoverers in a variety of ways, for example by a Health Visitor, Therapists, GP or by parents themselves. After first contact, the parent and child will be² visited at home and invited to visit the group. Parents are then given time to consider whether this is the right service for their child. If a Conductive Education approach is not the most appropriate for the child, staff will suggest other support.

We aim to reply to any referrals within 5 working days and we have been achieving this.

We had 10 new referrals over the course of the year, and we have been able to offer places to 9 of these children in need. We have had a mixture of referral sources, 6 families self-referred their child, 1 family was recommended by a Physiotherapist, one family found us through their Occupational Therapist, another through their Speech and Language Therapist. There is a wide variety of ways in which families have found out about Little Discoverers and we believe that this is a clear indication that our message is spreading through the professional and local community alike.

From April 2020 until April 2021, despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have supported over 30 vulnerable families in need in the West Norfolk area and beyond. This year we have supported 8 female children and 23 males with age ranges: 2 children under the age of 1; 4 between 1 and 2 years; 3 between 2 and 3 years; 13 between 3 and 4 years; 9 between the ages of 4 and 5 years old.

We are inclusive of all nationalities and ethnicities and have families who use English as an additional language.

² If our ability to hold face-to-face visits and meetings is impacted by external events such as the coronavirus epidemic then we use other methods of communication to ensure all enquiries and referrals are responded to

How we support the children and their parents – under ‘normal’ circumstances



Parents are key to their child's development and the early years have been shown to be vital in stimulating the brain to enable the child to maximise their potential. Parents of children with complex health needs and impairments can feel physically and socially isolated leading to increasing emotional difficulties for the parent and the child. Attending a Little Discoverers group gives children therapy for 36 weeks a year in all aspects of their development, regular input that is vital for stimulating the development of new pathways in the brain.

Our approach is based on a unique form of early education focussing on all aspects of child development inspired by methods developed at the Peto Institute of Conductive Education in Hungary (see Appendix 1). This is a multi-sensory approach, stimulating the child's senses and encouraging self-learning through activities and experiences that are fun for both children and their parents.

At Little Discoverers' sessions parents and children learn the skills needed to provide motivation, communication and enjoyment of early learning through play. They are supported to break through the isolation barriers of disability and learn to communicate their emotional journey through contact with supportive professionals and other families on a weekly basis.

Children can start from birth and many children come to Little Discoverers under the age of twelve months and stay with us until school age. The average time that children stay with us is about 3 years. Progress is measured in small changes, for instance making eye contact, moving heads towards toys, progressing onto clapping and smiling.

As they attend our sessions children show increased independence, ability to communicate, confidence and self-esteem. Observations of older children include listening skills, playing alongside other children, sharing / turn taking, co-operative play and their response to the Team. At the end of each session we list the achievements of each child and clap these.

Some of our children attend nursery school and continue to come to Little Discoverers for a session each week.

The families learn the skills necessary to transfer the learning taking place in the session into the home and into the wider community of everyday activities including making the transition and integration into nursery. They receive information in many different formats - through physical activity, through illustrated information sheets and through exchanging knowledge with other parents about their child's impairment and how to empower their child in many everyday and formal learning areas.



The parents support each other and the children make friends in an environment where they are having fun while they learn new skills. The staff work with referring professionals and monitor the outcomes of the children on a daily basis and twice a year create updated Individual Education Plans for each child.

We support up to a maximum of 24 families at any one time - 3 sessions a week with a maximum of 8 children per session - for 36 weeks a year and we encourage professional and parental feedback at all times. In addition we operate an annual formal feedback process and analyse professional and parental feedback forms to help us identify areas for improvement – these feedbacks continue to be highly positive (see Monitoring Outcomes).

Under 'normal' circumstances we work in small groups of up to eight children of similar ability with their parents during weekly sessions. Each session lasts approximately two hours including a short break for a drink and a snack. A slow, structured session gives children time to try and to practise new skills, challenging themselves and maximising their potential. Parents feedback that large groups of active children can be intimidating, being fast moving and noisy. Each of our sessions is planned to involve the children in programmes that look at all aspects of their development - physical, social, emotional and understanding. Themes are chosen to make these sessions fun. Development is encouraged through play, songs, art and craft. There is continuity in the staff members, encouraging attachment and attunement, the staff understanding what the child's needs are and the child learning what is required of them.



As a result of generous donations we have been able to purchase specialist sensory and other equipment. This equipment is invaluable and continues to make a big impact on the way we are able to deliver our sessions.

As well as the regular sessions, we run a number of sessions to provide sibling support and family sessions when the wider family is invited. These days help families keep in touch and help provide wider support to the children and their siblings. By putting on six sibling sessions a year, we hope to include the entire family in learning and involve the siblings in all aspects of their brother's or sister's development. It also gives the sibling a chance to be involved and feel important. The family sibling sessions are held during school holidays and the inclusion of the whole family is fundamental to the core values of the Little Discoverers approach.

How we supported the children and their parents – impact of COVID related restrictions

COVID significantly impacted our ability to operate 'normally'. During the year we were faced with operating when everyone had to isolate and then to operate when controls were eased and we were able to hold face-to-face sessions but with restrictions in place:

- In isolation our staff produced in the region of 50 amazing videos and operated virtual sessions. This ensured we maintained regular contact with our children and their parents and engaged parents in continuing to undertake activities with their children that they would have been involved in during our face-to-face sessions. The videos show parents activities that they can try at home such as speech skills, story massage, fine motor skills, Makaton signs and much more. As well as being informative the videos and the virtual sessions have been a great success with the children.
- When limited face-to-face contact resumed in September our staff organised an attendance roster that maximised the amount of face-to-face contact whilst maintaining all the distancing and other isolation requirements. Instead of working with 8 children per session, the families were given a two-week rota that meant a maximum of just 4 families attended each day. This ensured that everyone could easily socially distance themselves.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE AGM HELD ONLINE ON 5th May 2021

As we enter our 17th year of running free Little Discoverers sessions, based at the Dutton pavilion on the Lynnsport site, we look back on another extraordinary year. The Coronavirus pandemic is still with us but we have managed to keep helping and supporting our families. Our inventive and marvellous staff have put together YouTube videos full of ideas of activities to do at home and online sessions to enable the families to follow routines, progress their children's development and connect with the other families. We have also managed to continue providing online holiday sessions to involve the siblings. The staff have also been making sure all the families have been contacted using phone calls and text messages to reduce feelings of isolation and mental health concerns.

Very happily since March 2021 we are once again back doing face to face sessions at the Dutton, as well as streaming sessions, but are still having to observe Corona virus restrictions and reducing the number of children in a session. At present we have 4 children in a session with the other members of the group doing an online session and then rotating every week. We have 8 children registered for each of the 3 weekly sessions, 24 families in total.

The staff team

We would like to praise our staff for the way they have worked tirelessly and effectively in the difficult circumstances that have arisen due to the pandemic.

We have managed to keep the 3 members of staff, Kat Hunter, Pauline Bennett, and Lauren Tufts on their full salaries during the pandemic and they have been doing wonderful work from home. Kat has also been paid and been very helpful in taking over some of the financial matters while we were looking for a Treasurer to replace Gordon. Gordon, after a magnificent 8 years, is retiring at this AGM. We are very fortunate in now having Emma Fendley join us as the Treasurer and a Trustee. She has lots of accounting expertise and will be a great asset to the Management Group.

Kat is expecting a baby in June and we all look forward to seeing baby Hunter. We advertised on Indeed and in Your Local Paper for a maternity cover Team Leader. We interviewed 2 people and are very happy that Hazel Colley, who had 2 excellent references, a clear DBS check and who had attended Little Discoverers herself with her son, has been appointed into the job. Hazel is also a swimming instructor for 0-5 year olds and we hope that we will be able to use this expertise in some way. The staff all had excellent appraisals and in recognition of this received salary increases.

During the pandemic the staff have managed to use their time at home very usefully to complete several courses. Lauren did an Adult Mental Health course, Pauline a Paediatric First Aid course and Kat an extended Safeguarding course. Feedback forms with a difference have been sent out to the parents and professionals to reflect the pandemic. In the parent form we added questions about whether they accessed the live online sessions, the YouTube videos and the face-to-face sessions, when they were available. Professionals have not been visiting this year due to Corona virus restrictions so we added an extra box to the answers saying "unable to comment due to the pandemic" it will be very interesting to see what feedback we get from both the parents and professionals.

Each member of staff looks after one aspect of our social media. Kat does the YouTube videos, Pauline the web site and Lauren our Facebook page. Kat has also been empowering Pauline and Lauren by teaching them how to make videos, using the skills she learnt doing a Media Studies A level at school.

We were very grateful to Children In Need for giving us a grant of £2,500 to enable us to deal with the pandemic and this funded amongst other things the extra iPad, technical equipment and Personal Protective Equipment that we needed.

The Management Team

We are very fortunate in having a wonderful team from many backgrounds, which again has adapted to the pandemic and has been carrying out our meetings and AGMs online. We have missed meeting in person but will probably in the future do a mixture of face to face and online meetings. Online saves on petrol and time but we enjoy getting to know each other in person and having a chat as well as discussing business.

The Trustees have 2 new members, Emma Fendley and Andrew McShane, so at the current time we have 6 Trustees but Gordon will be retiring at the AGM. Our Trustees are at present Penny Sheerin (Solicitor), Sue Williamson (Teacher), Gordon Penny, Emma Fendley (Treasurer), Andrew McShane (CEO of a company), Katie Fisher (Paediatric Physio and Chair).

We are intending at the AGM to make a change to our constitution to make it clear that it is the Trustees who have the legal responsibility for the running of the Charity.

On the Management Group we were very glad to welcome another 2 new members. Mandy Marston, who works for the Purfleet Trust, and brings a huge amount of expertise, as does Alex Hodson, a Teacher, with a great deal of experience of working with Special Educational Needs children and safeguarding. We are very fortunate in having them join us. We also have 2 new parent representatives who may be joining the Team at the AGM. We are always delighted to have parent's views of how Little Discoverers feels for them and how to work together to make it even better. Our Management Group also includes Dave Carter (Design) Jean Hale (Business woman and grandmother of a child who attended Little Discoverers) Linda Layfield (Minute Secretary) Kevin Parker (Business man) and Terry Keeper (Business man). We sadly said goodbye to Chas Houghton after several years as a parent representative who helped us to mark and make an asset register of all our equipment. All members bring their own skills, which makes for a wonderfully diverse and successful team.

Quality control

The staff have continued to do excellent case studies throughout the year, which give a good picture of the staff's working and the progress the children are making. These are included in our regular feedback to Children In Need, the NHS and the Norfolk County Council and all of them have expressed that they really value these. Our feedback to these bodies has been very well received and we have been complimented on the work. At present we have a Children in Need grant (which finishes in 2021) and funding from NHS and Norfolk County Council.

Feedback forms were sent to parents and professionals and the feedback continues to be positive (see Monitoring Outcomes in this report).

Sue Williamson and I have held staff meetings every 6 weeks, at which we go through an annual timetable, which includes looking at and updating policies, auditing data and the children's learning journals and discussing the running of the sessions. We are delighted with the way the staff have been working.

The staff have been given Facilitation and Back Care training and worked through DVDs for Manual Handling, Using a Computer, and Fire Safety. The staff were offered help with buying equipment to use at home with their laptops to minimise back strain etc and a free eye test if they were experiencing eye strain from home working.

The future

Our finances are the most healthy that they have been in the 16 plus years we have been running, which is excellent and many thanks to all those people who have supported us with

grants and donations. The Treasurer will highlight these. Our healthy funds have allowed us to support our staff during this difficult year and still make plans for an exciting future.

Many thanks go to Lynnsport, who have again been very supportive during the pandemic. We really enjoy working at Lynnsport, as it speaks about inclusion, activity and fun. We have however realised for a while that the Dutton would not probably be our permanent home, as Lynnsport hope to use it to support more football. With Lynnsport's and the council's help we looked at another possible venue in the town but it was unsuitable. We then had plans drawn up (very kindly by Matt Sturgeon, free of charge) of the kind of space we would need to provide a dedicated space for Little Discoverers and discussed this with Lynnsport. Lynnsport then came back to us with 3 possibilities, which we discussed in the Management Group. I then had a further meeting with Lewis Hemeter and Tommy Goode to discuss these ideas and the one that seemed much the best was to look into doing a joint building with the Pelican Club on a piece of land overlooking the hockey pitches and tennis courts. This is very exciting especially as it looks like a very good fit. The Hockey Club would want to use the facilities mainly at the weekend and Little Discoverers would want to use them during the week. We would be able to have some joint facilities such as toilets, changing areas, office and kitchen and then have some dedicated areas such as a viewing balcony for the club, with social area and space downstairs where we had rooms and storage to support the work Little Discoverers does. We would also hope to widen the project into making it a place where all people with disabilities, of all ages could use when taking part in sporting activities in Lynnsport. Having changing rooms with an adjustable bed and hoist for instance, automatic doors, a lift to the second floor and a large atrium where wheelchairs could be stored. We would also want to build a quiet room where people could go if they were upset or needed counselling and a sensory room. This would make the building into a great facility for the wider community as well as celebrating the over 100 years of the Pelican Hockey Club and the important continuation of Little Discoverers. Andrew McShane and I for Little Discoverers have already had a first meeting with Charles Lankfer and Matthew Bower for Pelicans Hockey Club and we were all very excited at the prospect of working together to fulfil the ambitions of both groups. Fundraising will be a big factor, so all ideas will be gratefully accepted but we are determined to make every effort to make this enterprise work for both of us and the wider community.

Katie Fisher BEM – Chair



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trustee and Management Group are all volunteers and receive no payments. Our main costs are associated with employing and maintaining the skill levels (training) of the 3 part-time members of the Team, the costs of room hire at Lynnsport and the running costs of the sessions including purchase of resources and equipment. The voluntary Trustee and Management Group is responsible for the quality of our service provision, fundraising and approving all expenditure. All our Policies are reviewed annually on a rolling basis by the



Trustee and Management Group to ensure we continue to reflect and demonstrate best practice. In addition, our staff are subject to annual appraisals the outcomes of which contribute to decisions on any pay increases that we decide we can afford to pay.

Lynnsport provides direct support by charging a reduced room hire cost and indirectly supports us by the provision of help to establish and maintain the room we use and by organising their activities to ensure they do not disrupt our activities.

Our sessions with the children are planned and run by our Team Leader and the two Team Members who each take it in turn to plan and run sessions on a three-week rota. These are all part time roles aligned to the timings of the individual sessions with the children.

The Trustees and members of the Management Group monitor feedback from families and professionals and from nurseries and schools when children transfer to them. All the feedback continues to be very positive and constructive.

Trustees and members of the Management Group also observe some sessions and provide feedback. Trustees attend 6-weekly staff meetings and carry out staff appraisals.

There are monthly Trustee / Management Group meetings that the Team Leader also attends. The focus of these meetings continues to be on maintaining standards and establishing stable funding to ensure our long-term ongoing viability and as part of this, raising our visibility in the Region as an independent charity.

We work closely with the NANSA Centre in Norwich on staff development and we sometimes attend their centre meetings.

SAFEGUARDING

There were no safeguarding issues to report during the year.

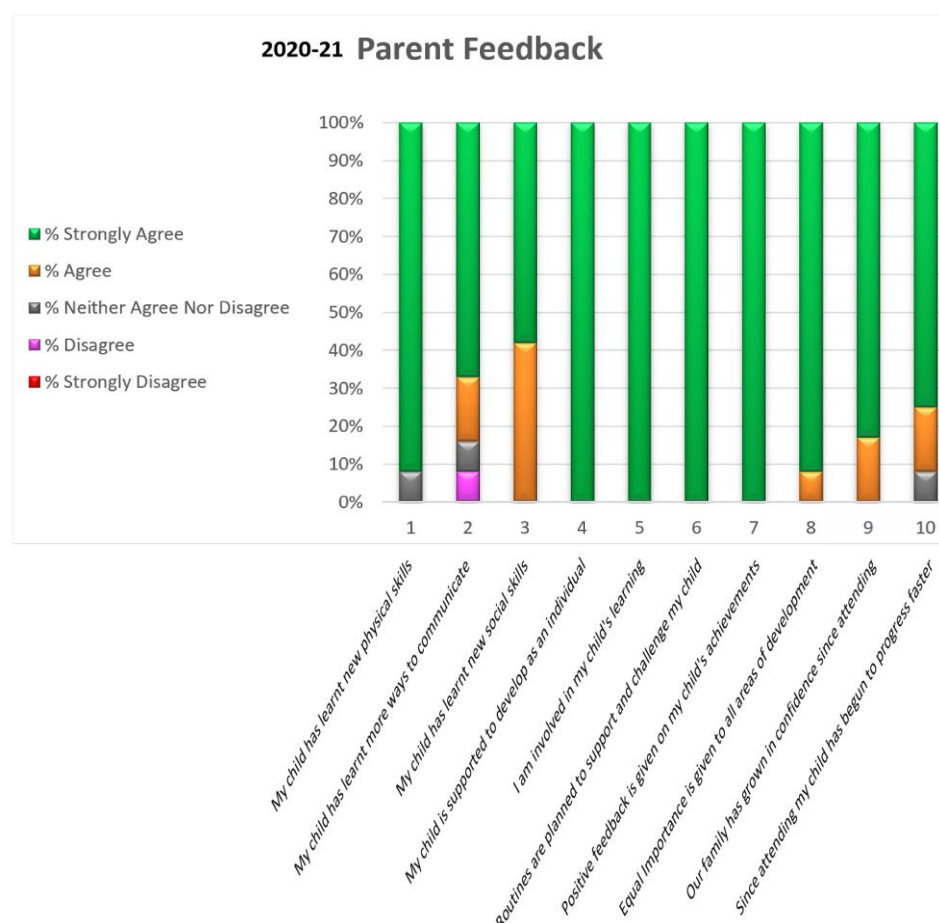
MONITORING OUTCOMES

Children attending Little Discoverers sessions have varying abilities due to the nature of their disability and age. Progress is very individual to each child so each child has an individual programme and their achievements are celebrated at the end of each session and then recorded in each child's individual learning journal.

In addition, we encourage informal feedback through comments in our Visitors Book and formal feedback through questionnaires designed to capture Parents' and Professionals' views on the effectiveness of our approach to supporting each child's development. The results of this year's parent and professional questionnaires feedback are shown below. **(NOTE: See Appendix 3 for an enlarged version of the 'standard' Parent and Professional charts below).**

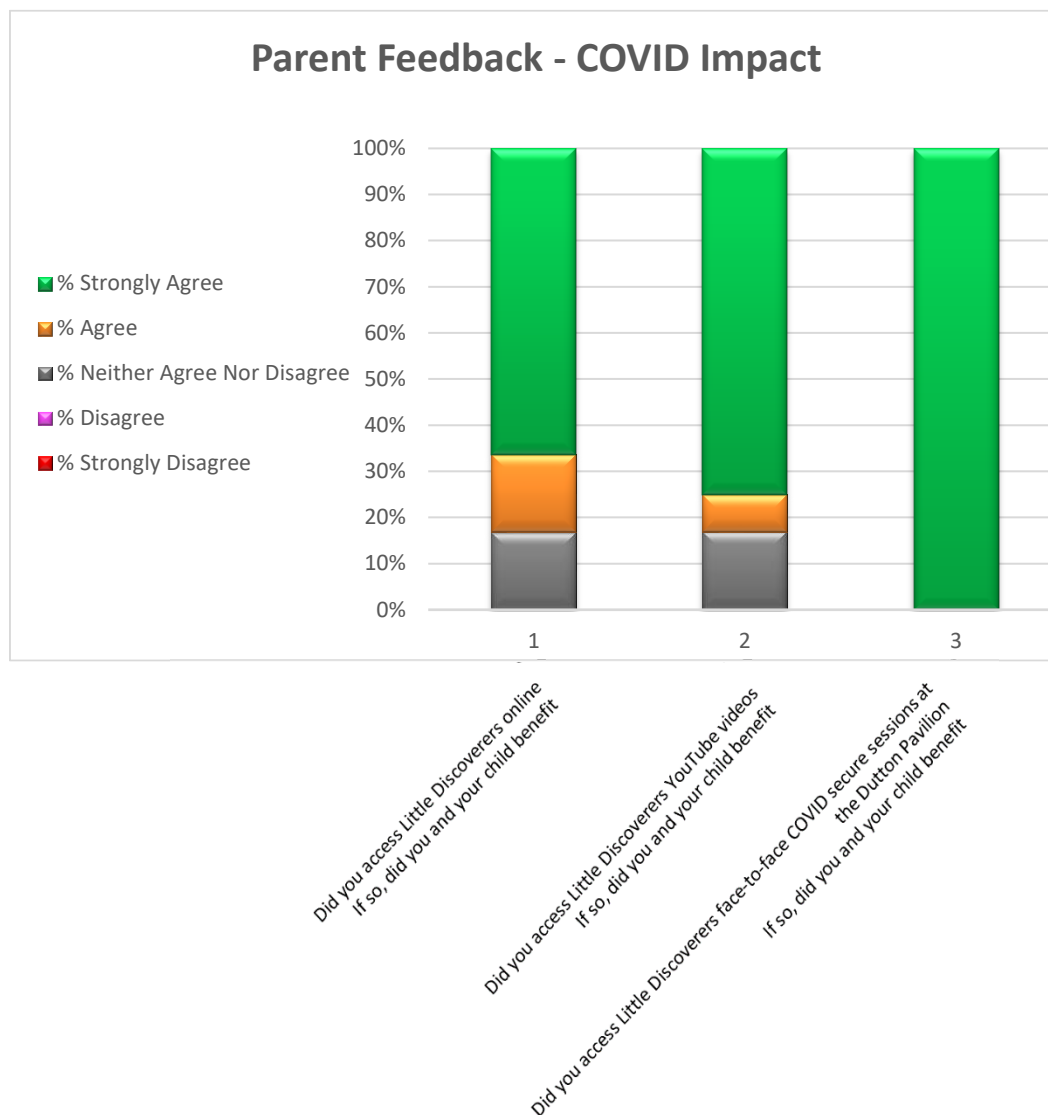
Because of COVID 2020-21 has been an unusual and challenging year for our children and their parents and carers, the Little Discoverers staff and the Professionals from various Services with whom we have regular contact. Our inability to hold regular face-to-face sessions for most of the year challenged us to find ways to engage remotely. To enable us to assess the impact of our video sessions and the precautions taken at the Dutton for the COVID secure sessions that we were able to hold, we included 3 additional questions in the Parent questionnaires. As can be seen from the Parent responses to our questionnaires, our staff responded magnificently. Unfortunately, Professional contact was very restricted and as a result our Professionals' feedback was dominated by their inability to comment on our contribution to the progress of the children they were monitoring.

Parent Feedback. Responses to our usual 10 questionnaire statements. 12 (20 in 2019-20) questionnaires were completed and returned to Little Discoverers by parents. In total, in response to the 10 statements in each of the 12 complete questionnaires, 96% (94% in 2019-20) of all parent responses Strongly Agreed or Agreed with the statements. 3% of responses Neither Agreed Nor Disagreed (6% in 2019-20) and 1% (Nil in 2019-20) Disagreed with the statements.



Responses to our 2020-21 additional three special COVID related questions.

The questions were responded to in all the 12 completed questionnaires. In response to the 3 questions, 89% of all parent responses Strongly Agreed or Agreed. The remaining 11% is the result of parents being unable to access either the live or the YouTube videos with their children – for the purpose of this analysis they have been scored Neither Agreed Nor Disagreed.



It is clear from a Parent/Carer perspective that COVID secure face-to-face sessions continue to be the preferred method of service delivery. However, we have had a high level of success delivering our sessions live online and via YouTube and this experience has added a new set of learning and tools available as and when we need to use them to ensure the resilience of our service delivery.

Professional Feedback. 7 (8 in 2019-20) questionnaires were completed and returned to Little Discoverers by professionals who, in most cases, had not been able to visit Little Discoverers to view the children and their parents in sessions. In total, in response to the 11 statements in each of the 7 questionnaires, 64% (96% in 2019-20) of all professional responses 'Strongly Agreed' or 'Agreed' with the statements. More than a third (36%) of the responses were Neither Agree Nor Disagree or unable to comment due to pandemic. In the analysis below all these responses are included in the 'Neither Agree Nor Disagree' category.



The Professional feed-back highlights the need to ensure they are as engaged with our on-line approach as they are in face-to-face sessions with families they and we are supporting.

The majority of children leave Little Discoverers to attend mainstream nursery and mainstream schools and our feedback indicates that we are continuing to successfully deliver in the key 'Outcome' areas of:

- Physical skills
- Communications
- Social Skills

OUR TEAM LEADER'S ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Introduction

A year like no other for the world, the children of West Norfolk and Little Discoverers!

We have had 10 new referrals over the course of the year, and we have been able to offer places to 9 of these children in need.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to 4 children as they move onto both special educational settings and mainstream schools in September. We have also said goodbye to 8 families who have decided to move onto Nursery or other settings. It is all so bittersweet when a family moves on from Little Discoverers, but we are so grateful for all the progress and smiles we have witnessed over the year and wish them the absolute best of luck.

We hope the families remember that Little Discoverers will continue to be available for advice, chats, or to receive cute photos for as long as they need us!

Sessions

What would we have done without technology this year? It has been both a challenge and a blessing, but I am so proud of the achievements we have made, and I honestly believe it has benefitted our charity for the foreseeable future to have these new skills available to us.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the families of Little Discoverers, without whom we would cease to exist. You have all worked so hard and your determination to continue progressing with your child has been inspirational to watch. As a team we have been thrilled to see the way you have all rallied through social media to support one another in times of need or anxiety during the pandemic. We are grateful to have been able to give you all this connection to build friendships and support.

In September 2020, we were able to finally reopen our doors again and work with the children and families face-to-face. We created a Covid-19 risk assessment so that we could keep everyone as safe as possible, and this was so well received by our families:

- Instead of working with 8 children per session, we gave the families a two-week rota and saw 4 families a day. This meant that everyone could have their own space and socially distance themselves successfully.
- The staff pulled on their marigold gloves and have worked tirelessly with Alive Lynnsport to ensure the building is as clean as possible – going above and beyond their usual duties.
- We routinely check the temperature of every person who enters the building and offer guidance and advice to any families who are feeling under the weather.



We are proud to say that many families who had been recommended to continue to shield, felt our procedures were so thorough and reliable that they were happy to return to our sessions at the Dutton Pavilion.

YouTube

A fantastic resource for us this year has been our YouTube Channel! This time last year we had accumulated around 3,500 views on all our videos combined... Well, this year we have received nearly 8,500 views!! Not bad for a small local charity that supports up to 24 families at a time.

We have truly thrown ourselves into supporting our families in every way we possibly can and have created around 50 YouTube videos to help us do this. These videos show parents activities they can try at home such as speech skills, story massage, fine motor skills, Makaton signs and so much more. They are not only informative but have proven to be a great success with the children.

Not only have our videos been praised by our families, but we have also received fantastic feedback from the Norfolk County Council Children's Services, the NHS and the Norwich and Norfolk Send Association, also known as NANSA. NANSA also supports children, adults, and families with the methods of Conductive Education so we were so proud to receive their encouragement.

Many of these services have also asked if they may share our videos with the families that they support, and we were only too happy to have our hard work and good message shared.

I would like to say a special thank you to Lauren and Pauline for taking part in the creating, filming, and editing of these videos. They have overcome their fears, worked incredibly hard and provided quality learning and entertainment for our young people. I hope you are both as proud of yourselves as I am!

Fundraising

It is no secret that with everybody stuck at home during the pandemic, that fundraising has been particularly difficult for charities this year. We have been so lucky that local services and companies have continued to remember us and have been able to donate in some way after a financially challenging year.

There are too many people to thank individually, but here are a few that truly stand out:

- It is always an honour to be recognised by a charity as prestigious as BBC's Children in Need and this year was no exception. Children in Need were able to donate £2,500 to support Little Discoverers during the Covid-19 pandemic. This money played an essential role in the re-opening of our face-to-face sessions. With it, we were able to purchase new equipment so each child would not have to share touched surfaces, training for the staff to ensure quality and safety, technology so that we could reach families at home and so much more
- We would also like to thank The Companions of Park House - A charity which raised tens of thousands of pounds towards the work of a specialist West Norfolk hotel, catering for disabled holidaymakers. We were so very saddened to hear of their closure in October 2020, however, even in closure they continued to change lives by donating nearly £40,000 to other West Norfolk charities, one of which was Little Discoverers. We received our biggest donation ever to date, a whopping £12,725. As a charity we must raise close to £40,000 a year to remain operational, and as you can imagine, this donation really did make a wonderful difference
- I would also like to say a special thank you to both The Norfolk Masonic Charities Committee and the Hunstanton Lions. Little Discoverers strives to go above and beyond

when caring for the families we support and with their help this year, this has been possible...

- In December 2020, we approached the Freemasons Charitable Fund on behalf of a family whose child needed a new iPad. The child has Downs Syndrome and the iPad that was previously owned and used for communication unfortunately had broken. Within 48 hours, Chairman Mike Spalding had raised the full amount needed to purchase a brand-new iPad and case for the child! This was life changing for the family and gave the child a whole new lease of independence and happiness!
- We approached the Hunstanton Lions on behalf of a family who were in desperate need of a new, specialised bed for their child. The child had grown out of the cot he slept in and required crash mats to be placed around to ensure his safety. The Hunstanton Lions generously donated nearly £700 so that the family could purchase a padded and appropriate bed that would benefit him for many years to come. Sleep is such a huge part of development for children, so it is no small thing to be able to provide such an essential gift for this family.

Thank you all so much for your continued support, we truly would not be able to do the good work we do without you.

Families

The families of Little Discoverers are the very epicentre of the charity. One benefit of working online through the pandemic this year has been that we have been able to see so many more members of the child's family all learning together at home. At the Dutton Pavilion, we may only usually see Mum, Dad, or the child's carer – but over the last year we have loved seeing our children learning with their siblings and other family members.

We try our best at Little Discoverers to include the whole family in the child's progress and learning. One of the incredibly special things we offer as a service is the opportunity for siblings to join a fun session during the school holidays each term and I am happy to say that this has continued throughout the pandemic also.

We have had an online music session, we have gotten thoroughly messy with fake snow and Hartbeeps at Christmas, we enjoyed magic, silliness and puppets with Captain Fantastic and we even took a virtual trip to the farm for our Easter party!

The team and Committee have had the best time attending these parties.

Learning

A benefit of working from home is that the team have had the opportunity to expand their knowledge base and take part in some amazing training this year. To name just a few:

- Pauline has learned all about Sensory Processing Disorders with a three-part online course. She has also completed her Level 1 in British Sign Language and has even become a qualified Paediatric First Aider
- Lauren has also had a busy year - she has taken part in Safeguarding training and even spent many weeks training to be a Mental Health First Aider. Given the difficult times our families may face daily, even before the pandemic, we feel this training will be a huge asset to the charity and ensuring we are doing everything we can to help those in need
- All staff have taken part in COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) training given the new need to use chemicals and cleaning products at the Dutton Pavilion and a Covid-19 awareness course to make sure we are doing what we can to keep everyone safe.

- Kat has also taken part in renewing her Designated Safeguarding Officer Training

As many of you know, during the usual two-hour session, we use a holistic approach of singing, signing, sensory involvement and a healthy mix of adult and child led activities. This way of learning allows the children to succeed and progress without ever realising that they are 'working'. What is fun for the children is always fun for the adults too and so many laughs and good times are shared in our Little Discoverers sessions. Here are a few of the children's achievements we have witnessed this year:

- If any of you are familiar with our YouTube videos, you will already have witnessed the incredible achievements 'A' has undergone this year. 'A' is 4 years old and was born at 28 weeks gestation. He suffered a grade 4 bleed on the brain which later led to sepsis. 'A' has a diagnosis of Hydrocephalus, reduced vision, Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy, and experiences epileptic absences. This year the shining 'WOW!' that 'A' has achieved has got to be his speech development. 'A' began the year saying simple sentences and singing some basic songs – he now has a full repertoire of music - that he likes to demonstrate for us during session times! 'A' can sing all of our songs from Little Discoverers and will complete the actions along with them independently. He will also treat us to his favourite TV songs and a few nursery rhyme classics too. Well done 'A', we are all so proud of you!
- Another wonderful story of success belongs to 'B'. 'B' was diagnosed with Mowat-Wilson syndrome which is a genetic condition that affects many parts of the body. This could include an intellectual and physical development delay. 'B' and her family are fantastic attenders of Little Discoverers and have been so vocal about their appreciation of the charity. We have been thrilled with 'B's' physical progress this year; she is now taking steps independently whilst using the parallel bars! (Despite having received heart surgery in June 2020!). We were also impressed with Dad's ability to build his own parallel bars from pipes to ensure that 'B' could continue to progress at home. Well done 'B' and to all your family too!

There are too many success stories to be able to mention them all, but finally I would like to tell you about 'C' and his wonderful journey.

- 'C' was born at just 23 weeks and 4 days gestation and weighed 1lb 8oz at birth. After a few weeks of life 'C' contracted meningitis and underwent heart surgery due to being born so prematurely. 'C' has Chronic Lung Disease, Asthma, and Cerebral Palsy and delayed development. This year we have been truly blown away by 'C's' achievements. We have seen 'C' learn how to roll over, raise his pointy finger on command, sit up independently, stamp his feet in a sensory tray, hold onto a rod and move it along to the music and most importantly – he has learnt to eat a bag of crisps all by himself! We are over the moon to have been able to witness these developments and we would like to say a huge well done to 'C' and his family for their determination and hard work.

Conclusion

We are now reaching more families than ever before with the help of our YouTube channel and we have been praised by many other services for our determination to continue supporting our young children through the pandemic.

We have continued to take on new referrals and have provided a safe and secure environment for them to learn in. We have adapted our sessions to allow our families to socially distance, but we have not by any means compromised on the fun!

As we finish this year, we are grateful to welcome Hazel Colley as Team Leader to cover Kat's maternity leave. Hazel has a fascinating background in childcare, swimming teaching and much more. She has many exciting extracurricular activities such as working with the scouts and chaperoning for the Alive King's Lynn Corn Exchange's annual pantomime. After already

knowing Hazel well from her attendance and participation within the charity Committee, it is clear Hazel will be a huge asset to the team and we are so looking forward to your time with Little Discoverers.

We have said thank you to the staff and families of Little Discoverers, but the main heroes of the charity must be the Committee and Trustees who all work tirelessly in their own time to ensure the smooth running of the charity and have such care and dedication to the vulnerable children we support. We truly hope you realise the difference you make to the families of West Norfolk and beyond and that you take a moment to appreciate yourselves for your time and efforts.

Although 2020-2021 has brought many challenges and worries for everyone at Little Discoverers. It has also given us the opportunity to step outside of our comfort zones and expand the charity to beyond what we had previously imagined.

HOW WE COMMUNICATE

OUR VIDEO

The College of West Anglia Film Department produced our current video to provide a good understanding of what we do in a session, so useful for potential families and people wishing to refer a family. We continue to receive positive feedback and are very pleased that the video has been so well received.

The families taking part have all given their written permission for the video to be used on our website.

OUR WEBSITE

www.littlediscoverers.co.uk

The web site was designed and is maintained for us by Simon Adams, son of Linda Adams who was a Member of the Management Group.

Photos of children taking part in sessions are included on the web site where parents have given written permission for this purpose.

The web site and video show clearly what takes place in a Little Discoverers' session and how the children and carers benefit. The web site continues to be very helpful to potential families and funders.

OUR YOU TUBE CHANNEL

We launched our very own Little Discoverers YouTube Channel primarily to provide something that parents can access at home if they are unable to attend our sessions and to provide parents with wonderful memories, advice, and tips for activities they can do at home and a way of sharing the hard work they are doing in sessions with family and friends. This has been invaluable in helping us mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the families and the service we provide to them. We have created around 50 YouTube videos that show parents activities they can try at home such as speech skills, story massage, fine motor skills, Makaton signs and so much more. They are not only informative but have proven to be a great success with the children.

This time last year we had accumulated around 3,500 views on all our videos combined. This year we have received nearly 8,500 views.

FACEBOOK

Staff continue to run the parents' private Facebook page and successfully add new parents and useful links. Many potential families have been in touch via Facebook and have been followed up. There is some lovely feedback on Facebook about the service we provide.

There is also an open Little Discoverers Facebook page for people outside those families attending the sessions. Fundraising and events are publicised on this page.

OUR LOCATION

This has been Little Discoverers 10th year at the Dutton Pavilion at Lynnsport in King's Lynn and we continue to be very grateful to Lynnsport and its staff for their support.

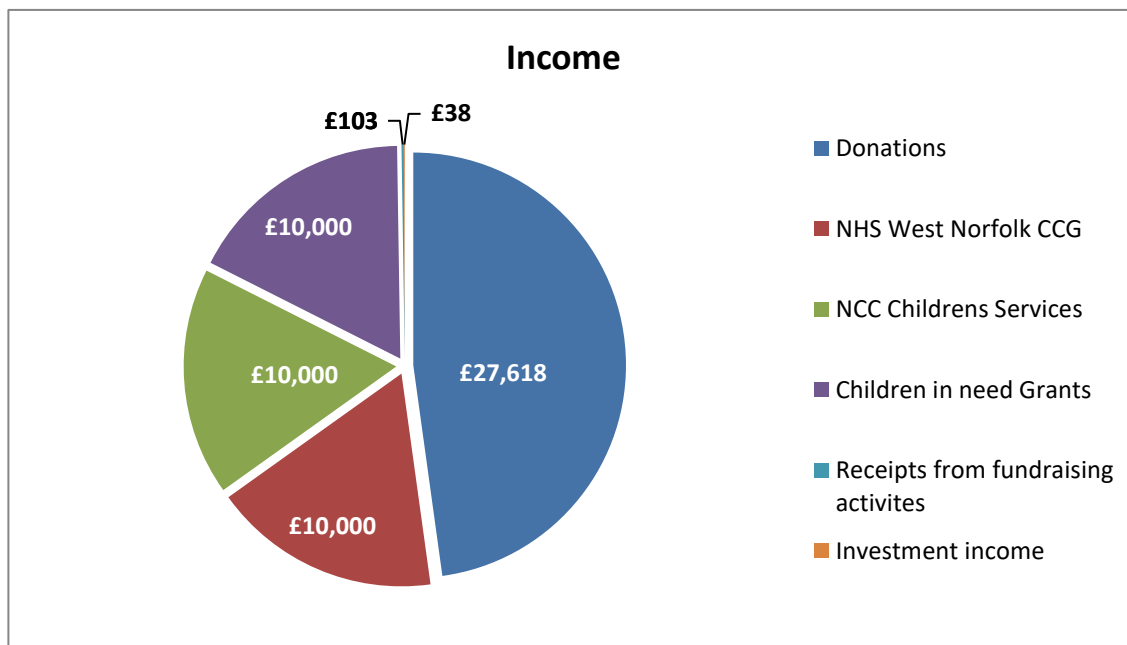
We are facing space constraints at the Dutton and continue to be in discussion with Lynnsport to identify accommodation more appropriate to our current needs and to enable us to accommodate additional numbers as the demand for our services increases.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

We are delighted to report another successful year for Little Discoverers, with a surplus of £17,332 (2019-2020 £10,455), and a closing bank balance of £102,647 (2019-2020 £85,315)

Income

During this period income received totalled £57,759 (2019-2020 £49,839).



As can be seen, almost half of our income received is from donations and whilst this is up on last year (2019-2020 £21,150) this is mainly due to the kindness of one large, one off, donation of £12,725 from a local charity. Without this donation we would have been down by 30% on our donations, which is probably due to the Coronavirus. This reason will also have affected our receipts from fundraising activities, as this is down to £103 from £2,076 (2019-2020).

Norfolk County Children's Services have funded us £10,000 which replaces the funding from children's centres received previously, which we were thrilled to receive.

Children in need have once again supported us with the receipt of an extra £2,500 specifically for covid-19 related purchases.

Investment income is down to £38 with the reduction in interest rates (2019-2020 £114).

Expenditure

Our total expenditure for the year is £40,427 (2019-2020 £39,384). Our largest expense, as always, is salaries at £29,649 (£25,893 2019-2020) up 14.5% on last year, this is mainly due to increasing the Team Leader responsibilities to include some financial duties from the treasurer. This has in turn increased the NEST pension contributions to £599 (2019-2020 £410), which we continue to pay as per the Government legislation.

Rent payable is down to £1,895 (2019-2020 £6,283) due to not using the Dutton Pavilion and sessions being online. With this in mind, we have increases in printing, postage and stationery costs to £601 (2019 – 2020 £379) while staff have been working from home. Computer and website costs include £399 for an iPad. All other costs are within acceptable levels and as expected at this time.

Covid costs (Children in Need grant) have been completely used as per the terms of the grant.

Summary

Whilst this has been an unusual year in many ways, we have managed, with great team work and support to reach the end of the year in a positive position.

Our total funds available to spend, without restrictions, are £90,866. This excludes a contingency of £10,000 and our restricted funds balance (mainly the musical session fund) of £1,781.

We have been fortunate to be able to fully support our staff during this difficult time financially. In return they have been amazing, including fantastic online sessions supporting our families, whilst our doors remained closed at the Dutton Pavilion

The trustees and management team will continue to carefully and regularly review the position and will strive to find ways to continue the good work.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Stephenson Smart who provide our monthly financial statements, manage our payroll, administer our pension scheme and audit our annual accounts. They have endorsed our financial management and accounting practices and are confident that they meet all the requirements as set out by the Charity Commission for England and Wales

Financial Reserves Policy

We continue to face a number of challenges, in particular:

- We rely on income from fund raising activities and donations. Under normal circumstances it is difficult to gauge the phasing and levels of income that these will produce and the impact of Coronavirus on the overall economy and potentially on some of the services and organisations that we have received revenue from in the past has increased the level of uncertainty that we face
- The support and help we receive from Lynnsport has enabled us to increase the capacity of each of our sessions in Lynnsport's Dutton Pavilion up to 8 children and their parents. It is difficult to see how we could further expand our service within the physical confines of the Dutton and we believe it is prudent to plan for the fact that we may have to move to meet future demand

As a response to the challenges facing us the Trustees have confirmed the decision to formally earmark a reserve of £10,000 to enable us to manage short term shortfalls in funding, ensure we can fund a move from the Dutton Pavilion if we have to with minimum impact on our operational activities and to ensure we have the funds to manage an orderly close down if that ever became the only responsible action for us to take.

In conclusion, although our balances appear to be healthy we are taking a realistic approach taking into account the present financial pressures and possible developments and feel that our current level of reserves is necessary to enable us to plan for future development and to minimize the impact of potential financial risks and threats to the future of Little Discoverers.

Emma Fendley MAAT
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT AND EXAMINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charity registration number 1125400

Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents

Unaudited Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2021

Stephenson Smart (East Anglia) Limited
Chartered Accountants
22-26 King Street
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 1HJ

Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents

Organisation Information

Year ended 31 March 2021

Registered charity name	Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents
Charity registration number	1125400
Principal office	c/o Alive Lynnsport Greenpark Avenue King's Lynn Norfolk PE30 2NB
Trustees	Mrs K Fisher (Greateorex) Mrs S Williamson Mr G Penny Mrs P Sheerin Mrs E Fendley Mr A McShane
Accountants	Mr D Jastrzebski Stephenson Smart (East Anglia) Limited Chartered Accountants 22-26 King Street King's Lynn Norfolk PE30 1HJ
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

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Receipts and payments account	2
Statement of assets and liabilities	3
Notes to the accounts	4
Detailed receipts and payments account	5

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the summary of receipts and payments and the statement of assets and liabilities.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

As permitted by Direction 2, issued by the Charity Commission the firm for which I work has provided the charity with bookkeeping services during the year ended 31 March 2021. As a consequence I have followed the requirement of the FRC's Ethical Standard when undertaking this assignment.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the accounts. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no audit opinion on the accounts and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Dan Jastrzebski ACA CTA
Stephenson Smart (East Anglia) Limited
22-26 King Street
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 1HJ
02 December 2021

Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 31 March 2021

	2021			2020
	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Receipts				
Donations	27,618	-	27,618	21,150
Funding	20,000	-	20,000	14,000
Grants	-	10,000	10,000	12,499
Receipts from fundraising activities	103	-	103	2,076
Investment Income	38	-	38	114
	<u>47,759</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>57,759</u>	<u>49,839</u>
Payments				
Charitable activities	26,161	13,066	39,227	38,784
Governance costs	1,200	-	1,200	600
	<u>27,361</u>	<u>13,066</u>	<u>40,427</u>	<u>39,384</u>
Net receipts/(payments)	<u>20,398</u>	<u>(3,066)</u>	<u>17,332</u>	<u>10,455</u>
Fund transfers	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for year	<u>20,398</u>	<u>(3,066)</u>	<u>17,332</u>	<u>10,455</u>
Cash funds at 31 March 2020	80,468	4,847	85,315	
Cash funds at 31 March 2021	<u>100,866</u>	<u>1,781</u>	<u>102,647</u>	

Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Year ended 31 March 2021

	2021		2020
	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Monetary assets			
CAF Gold Account	96,755	1,781	98,536
CAF Cash Account	4,111	-	4,111
Total cash funds	100,866	1,781	102,647
Other monetary assets			
PAYE & NI	-	-	-
Liabilities			
Pension contributions	132	-	132

CLIENT APPROVAL

We approve the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 and confirm that we have made available all relevant records for their preparation.

Katherine Fisher

02 December 2021

Mrs K Fisher (Greatest) on behalf of Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents

Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents

Notes to the accounts

Year ended 31 March 2021

1 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 31 March 2020	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
Snettisham CP	498	-	(498)	-	-
Musical Sessions	1,849	-	(81)	-	1,768
Children in Need	2,500	7,500	(10,000)	-	-
Children in Need Covid-19		2,500	(2,487)	-	13
	<u>4,847</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>(13,066)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,781</u>

Fund

Snettisham CP

Musical Sessions

Children in Need

Children in Need Covid-19

Purpose and restriction

To provide equipment

To provide musical sessions

To provide part funding for team leaders salary

To cover Covid-19 expenses

Little Discoverers, West Norfolk School for Parents

Detailed receipts and payments account

Year ended 31 March 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Receipts				
Donations	27,618	-	27,618	21,150
Funding:				
NHS West Norfolk CCG	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Vancouver Children Centre	-	-	-	500
Hunstanton Children Centre	-	-	-	500
N Lynn, Gaywood NB & Wootton Children Centre	-	-	-	1,000
Downham Market Children Centre	-	-	-	1,000
Emneth Children's Centre	-	-	-	1,000
NCC Children's Services	10,000	-	10,000	-
Grants:				
Children in Need	-	7,500	7,500	12,499
Children in Need Covid-19	-	2,500	2,500	-
Receipts from fundraising activities	103	-	103	2,076
Investment Income:				
Bank Interest	38	-	38	114
	47,759	10,000	57,759	49,839
Payments				
Costs of charitable activities:				
Wages and salaries	19,649	10,000	29,649	25,893
Pension Contributions	599	-	599	410
Recruitment fees	195	-	195	333
Rent payable	1,895	-	1,895	6,283
Equipment and musical sessions	30	498	528	1,223
Insurance	672	-	672	630
Training and expenses	91	-	91	25
Membership fees	30	-	30	15
Travel	-	-	-	129
Printing, postage and stationery	600	-	600	379
Computer and website	753	-	753	1,127
Telephone	119	-	119	124
General expenses	1,484	81	1,565	2,170
Management expenses	44	-	44	43
Covid-19 Expenses	-	2,487	2,487	-
Governance costs:				
Payroll and accountancy costs	1,200	-	1,200	600
	(27,361)	(13,066)	(40,427)	(39,384)
Net receipts/(payments)	20,398	(3,066)	17,332	10,455

APPENDIX 1 – WHAT IS CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION

Conductive Education (CE) is a holistic integrated therapy/education system which is primarily useful for children with physical disabilities that have impacted on a wide area of their development. Conditions such as Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome and genetic conditions.

Andras Peto, the founder of CE, viewed children with neurological conditions as a whole, focussing not only on the body but also on the personality. He therefore chose methods of facilitation that not only made actions possible, but also developed the personality, the wish, desire and ability to be active and increased their confidence. CE perceives these children as facing a challenge of learning rather than needing treatment for a medical condition.

CE is based on the premise that despite damage to the nervous system, the brain has a degree of plasticity which gives it the capacity to form new neural connections which may take over from the damaged areas. However **an active** learning process stimulated by a multi sensory approach, using Rhythmical Intention (the staff use a phrase such as “I put my feet flat” to trigger a number of cognitive processes) and working in groups, is needed for this to happen.

Children without disabilities often learn quickly how to make use of their environment, how to connect with it and use it as a tool in their development. They learn to adapt and respond to the environment and its demands; in addition they learn to influence it, thus having an active interaction with the environment.

This situation however is different for children with neurological conditions. Disturbed mobility is accompanied by a challenge in their ability to perceive and understand. The impeded movement can restrict or prevent interactions with people and objects which would normally assist their development. This can result in negative experiences and frustrations which in turn affect personality. The dysfunction of the personality in turn restricts physical development and so a circle begins. CE aims to break this circle using group working, multi sensory input, facilitation using aids and equipment and programmes specific to the needs of the individual children.

The learning environment is critical to the success of skill development. The programme/sessions are structured, supportive, designed to maintain interest, to motivate, to reinforce learning, to praise and to challenge. It is important to also focus on transferring what is learned to the home environment by giving the parents the necessary skills and confidence.

Conductive Education is fun for both child and parent/carer.

APPENDIX 2 – PARENT AND PROFESSIONAL OBSERVATIONS

1. Extract of Parents' Observations

■■■■ loves Little Discoverers online but prefers attending at the Pavilion. She knows the songs and routines. ■■■■ loves the activities and seeing the staff and children. We appreciate everything the staff have provided and supported us to allow ■■■■ personality stand out and become confident and independent even when she's being a monkey!

An excellent service given the circumstances of lockdowns and making sessions Covid secure. I'm positive with face 2 face sessions returning that ■■■■ development will continue at a fast pace. The virtual sessions were brilliant especially at providing a safe and recognised activity on a weekly basis through an uncertain time.

It's so grateful to the support and help that's been given by all members of staff. Regular contact was appreciated during lock down. We certainly enjoyed and will continue with the Youtube Songs. I've found the help of other parents a great support to offering help and advice.

This service is so important, I would say vital to families and children. These ladies provide a whole support network and we wouldn't be where we are today without them. We have a confident, well mannered clever little boy who is school ready thanks to them.

■■■■ is now nearly 3 years old so we have been cooking & nearly 2 years and what we learn here is practised daily at home with all the family. Nanny, grandad, aunts, cousins - all know the songs! It's been amazing for us all.

So grateful for the online sessions and activities spent throughout the lockdown periods. My little boy loves the sessions and the routine. The team have made a brilliant effort with the Covid 19 face to face sessions in making us feel as safe and secure as possible.

A selection of comments from the Parent Feedback Forms

To enable us to assess the impact of our video sessions and the precautions taken at the Dutton for the COVID secure sessions that we were able to hold, we included 3 additional questions in the Parent questionnaires – they are the first 3 questions in the extracts below.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
	5	4	3	2	1
1. Access Did you access the Little Discoverers online, live video sessions? If so, do you agree that the sessions benefitted you and your child?	✓				
Comments: It was great to keep a bit of routine and really important for [redacted] to see the team.					

2. Access Did you access the Little Discoverers online YouTube videos? If so, do you agree that these videos benefitted you and your child?	✓				
Comments: WELL THOUGHT OUT AND VARIED - KEPT HER ATTENTION.					

3. Access Did you access the Little Discoverers face-to-face Covid-19 secure sessions at the Dutton Pavilion? If so, do you agree that the sessions benefitted you and your child?	✓				
Comments: It was so important for us as a family to keep in touch with the little discoverers ladies. It was great to have their continued support.					

The following are comments from our 'standard' Parent assessment questionnaires.

4. Physical independence My child has learnt new physical skills which have encouraged greater independence.	✓				
Comments: [redacted] Physical independence is largely due to his sessions at little discoverers, sitting, standing, walking.					

5. Communication My child has learnt more ways to communicate (such as eye contact, eye pointing, gesture, signing and vocalising) allowing my child greater interaction.	✓					
Comments: [redacted] can communicate with makaton, speech and gestures and is so confident now.						
6. Social skills My child has learnt new social skills (such as smiling, turn taking, interacting) which have increased their confidence and sense of wellbeing.	✓					
Comments: [redacted] is confident in a variety of social situations due to being at Little Discoverers from a young age.						
7. The Unique Child At Little Discoverers, my child is supported and encouraged to develop as an individual and a positive sense of self.	✓					
Comments: [redacted] and our whole family have had immense support.						
8. Positive relationships As parents we are spoken to, engaged and involved for the benefit of our child's learning and development.	✓					
Comments: The staff are brilliant and really know the children + their needs.						
9. Learning environments Little Discoverers provides planned routines, experiences and activities that support and challenge my child.	✓					
Comments: The routines really help with learning's development because they are consistent and easy to remember.						
10. Feedback At Little Discoverers my child is given helpful feedback about his / her efforts and achievements.	✓					
Comments: The ladies always gives great feedback and advice on physio tips + techniques.						

11. Support for the Child At Little Discoverers all aspects of my child's learning and development are considered equally important. His / her strengths and areas for development are recognised and supported.	✓				
Comments: When [redacted] has grown out of an activity the ladies will always adapt or find something new to challenge [redacted].					






12. Confidence of Family Unit Attendance at Little Discoverers has helped our family grow in confidence to help manage the challenges we meet.	✓				
Comments: Couldn't of got to this stage in [redacted] development without Little Discoverers *					






13. Increase in Development Rate Since attending Little Discoverers our child has begun to progress at a faster rate.	✓				
Comments: I fully believe we wouldn't be where we are with [redacted] today without Little Discoverers ♥					

2. Professionals' Observations

This has been a particularly challenging year for the Professionals to engage with the Little Discoverers sessions as the sessions moved from face to face in the Dutton to remote sessions when the children and their parents engaged with us from their homes. The result has been a high level of questionnaire responses where the Professional involved was unable to comment on specific children in our setting. However we have received a response from an experienced professional who is familiar with our approach and some of the children involved in our previous and more recent remote sessions and their response is included below.

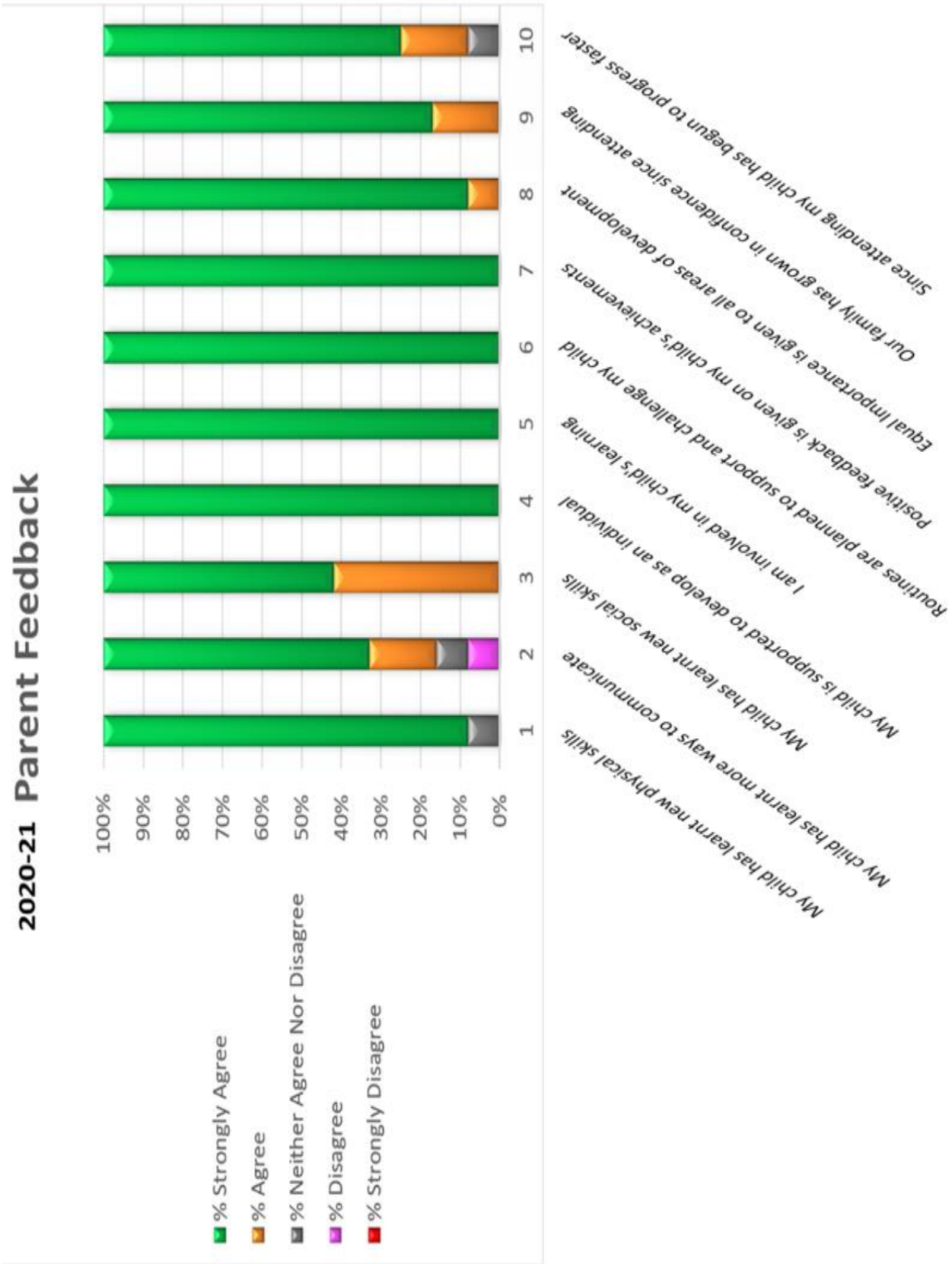
	Strongly Agree 5	Agree 4	Neither Agree or Disagree 3	Disagree 2	Strongly Disagree 1	Unable to Comment Due to Pandemic
1. Physical Independence Attendance helps to improve the child's physical independence/skills	✓					
Comments: Although I have not been able to visit Little Discoverers this year due to the pandemic, based on my previous experience of Little Discoverers, they very much promote physical independence.						

2. Communication Attendance had helped the child to communicate more (eg eye contact, eye pointing, gesture, signing and vocalising)						
Comments: <p>Although I have not been able to visit Little Discoverers this year due to the pandemic, based on my previous experience of Little Discoverers, attendance by the children I work with has helped them to develop their communication. The team promote good communication for example by offering the children choices.</p>						
3. Social Attendance has improved the child's social skills,(eg smiling, interacting)therefore increasing confidence and well-being						
Comments: <p>Same comments as for communication</p>						
4. Support for the Adult Parent/carers have benefited from support given from both staff and peers.						
Comments: <p>A current child that I am working with attends Little Discoverers. The child's parent has recently reported to me that she feels very well supported by Little Discoverers.</p>						
5. Support for the Child The child has benefited from working within a group setting.						
Comments: <p>Based on my previous experience of Little Discoverers, the children that I work with definitely benefit from the group setting. They can develop an increased awareness of others, and develop their social skills such as turn-taking skills.</p>						
6. Confidence Attendance has helped the family grow in confidence/skills to help them manage their child's disability.						
Comments: <p>The Parent of a child I am currently working with who attends feels that due to the support that she receives at Little Discoverers she is a lot more confident in helping her child to develop his skills.</p>						

7. Therapy Input Attendance at Little Discoverers means that the family receives an increased level of therapy input.						
Comments: Based on past experience, the team at Little Discoverers are happy to implement strategies that have been suggested by Therapists in that many of these strategies have become embedded in what they do.						
8. Management Attendance supports the management of the child's needs.						
Comments:						
9. Access to Equipment The child has use of a greater range of equipment than would be otherwise possible.						
Comments:						
10. Development Attendance has accelerated the child's progress/development.						
Comments:						
11. Wider Environment Attendance has had a positive impact on the level of weekly input required from therapists.						
Comments:						

APPENDIX 3 – ENLARGED VERSIONS OF THE PARENT AND PROFESSIONAL FEEDBACK CHARTS

PARENT FEEDBACK – 96% Agree or Strongly Agree with the questionnaire statements, 3% Neither Agreed NOR Disagreed and 1% Disagreed



PROFESSIONAL FEEDBACK – 64% Agree or Strongly Agree with the questionnaire statements, 36% Neither Agreed NOR Disagreed

2020-21 Professional Feedback

